

New Zealand ... In a class of its' own

7 day program – Auckland and Queenstown

Day 1 Kia Ora – Welcome to New Zealand

“..... I've always dreamed of going to NZ. It just seemed so idyllic and untapped, and the people seem to truly appreciate the land they have”

Auckland – City of Sails



Try not to think of Auckland as a city, even though it's New Zealand's largest. Think of it as half urban, half marine - a cosmopolitan experience wrapped up in a fascinating water world that's dotted with over 50 islands.

Regularly voted one of the best lifestyle cities in the world, its' amazing geography and warm, humid climate has inspired a lifestyle that's regularly ranked in the world's top ten. In just half an hour you can be almost anywhere - sailing to an island, trekking through the rainforest, picnicking on a volcano, sampling wines at a vineyard or wandering a wild, black sand surf beach. Auckland's layout makes it easy to jump quickly from one theme to another.

For an island escape, choose between Waiheke, Motuihe, Rangitoto - or journey a little further to Tiri Tiri Matangi, Kawau or Great Barrier. Each island has a different character and different things to do. Take your hiking boots or a good book and beach towel - you can be as active, or as inactive, as you like. To the west, north and south there are beaches and vineyards - combine the two for a memorable day trip. The native forests of the Waitakere and Hunua ranges let you discover New Zealand's unique bird and tree species - particularly the giant kauri tree.

Auckland does the urban side of life just as well as it does adventure. Past America's Cup activity has added an infusion of exciting new restaurants and bars at waters-edge and the Viaduct Precinct will be sure to delight. . You'll feast on culinary masterpieces that draw from the cuisine styles of Europe, the Mediterranean, Polynesia, Japan and Thailand. In the stylish precincts of Parnell, Ponsonby and Viaduct Basin, scores of restaurants compete for your attention.

A reputation for great art and fashion makes Auckland a shopper's paradise. Within the city zone you'll find originality and flair everywhere you look. Local theatre and live music gigs are another opportunity to discover the creative side of New Zealand culture.

Guests are transferred aboard deluxe coaches into Auckland City and their chosen hotel. Late morning guests are transferred to the wharf to board their charter boat for a leisurely cruise on Waitemata Harbour to Waiheke Island.

Lunch at Mudbrick Vineyard



Gorgeous **Waiheke Island** – an island which boasts olive groves and award winning vineyards and is perfect for a relaxing introduction to New Zealand, is just 30 minutes from downtown Auckland..

From almost any angle on the site, at Mudbrick, you find yourself looking out into the vast, blue depths of the Hauraki Gulf, what seems like limitless view of the sea, gently cupped by the sloping hills. You'll also see Rangitoto, several small islands and

the faint outline of the Auckland skyline.

Upon arrival guests will be greeted by wait staff offering cool refreshments. Music performed by a three piece jazz band will entertain as guests make their way to their tables. Here they will enjoy a barbecue luncheon and the aromatic flavours of the vineyards own wines. An abundance of scrumptious salads will serve as centrepieces while lunch will be served from the BBQ direct to tables. After lunch, guests will be able to leisurely meander amongst market stalls of local artists and craftspeople, make a purchase or two.

We re-board our charter boat for a leisurely cruise back to the city and boarding coaches we take a short orientation of the city, shopping precincts, The Domain and National Museum and the bays along wonderful Tamaki Drive.

This evening a relaxed 'Welcome to New Zealand' Cocktail Reception at the Hotel featuring New Zealand's finest produce and award winning wines. A pacifica theme dominates with New Zealand ferns and paua shells and traditional Maori songs and poi dances are performed by a talented Kapa Haka group.

Day 2 Auckland



After breakfast it's time for an exhilarating activity on the harbour. This morning, guests break into teams for a **City of Sails Yachting Regatta**, and experience the cutting edge technology of genuine Americas Cup boats, NZL 40 and NZL 41 as they race across the harbour.

Guests can have the choice – either to become the crew or experience the excitement of taking the helm, calling the tactics and exerting energy on the grinders or enjoying a purely social afternoon on the water. Either way, it's an experience that has only been available to the most elite professional yacht racers.

The regatta concludes at the Viaduct Basin – at waters-edge this shopping and entertainment precinct was developed during the years New Zealand held the America's Cup – a popular area for locals to relax over lunch and dinner. Over a light lunch at a popular Viaduct restaurant.

Departing after lunch from The Viaduct, guests can choose from a selection of pre-registered activities –

The 'Ultimate High' – Auckland Bridge Climb

Like no other bridge climb, guests can go under, through, up and over the bridge. The climb leader provides colourful stories about the surrounding incredible sights of Auckland and the harbour. Interactive videos, engineering features such as the vertical movement of the four clip-on road lanes, viewing platforms, and a web cam photo opportunity will all add to the experience.

Guided Shopping Spree

The hip shopping precinct in central Auckland of **High Street and Chancery Lane** beckons, for cutting edge fashion stores, art galleries and design shops. Via the picturesque Domain to **Newmarket** – one of the most concentrated shopping areas in New Zealand. Then onto **Parnell** close-by, a little touch of Victorian times can be seen in the quaint Parnell Village sitting alongside designer shops, outstanding galleries and the famous Høglund Glass shop.

City and Private Gardens Tour

Visit the Parnell Rose Gardens, the Savage Memorial, and private gardens, Ellerslie Racecourse gardens. Cornwall Park, the summit of One Tree Hill and the Auckland Domain Wintergardens.

Art Galleries and National War Memorial Museum

An afternoon exploring selected galleries with knowledgeable guide - guests visit The Studio of Contemporary Art, Anna Bibby, Whitespace and the Morgan Street Gallery then to the Museum where time is at leisure to learn more about the culture of New Zealand and view the largest collection of Maori taonga (treasures).

Bush 'n Beach Rainforest Experience

Only 30 kilometres from downtown Auckland is the cities largest regional park the Waitakere Ranges. Visit the Arataki Centre where you have spectacular views of both coasts and magnificent Maori carvings. We continue to KareKare beach, the location for the award winning movie "the Piano" where our guide will explain all about the fascinating local history, flora and fauna of the region and you get the opportunity to stroll on an unspoiled black sand beach.

‘Accelerate your Tastebuds’ Dinner



This evening guests depart the hotel by classic cars – Rolls Royce Silver Cloud, Armstrong Siddeley Sapphire, Daimler and Bentley, Jaguar IV, and a Ferrari or two! for the short journey to **The Classic Car Museum** in elegant and leafy Epsom close to the city centre. The museum itself is an old Shell Gas Station built in the 1920's and was acquired to house a collection of 38 classic English sports cars. All are regularly driven and maintained by a supporters club of passionate enthusiasts. It is a unique space reminiscent of an art gallery with the cars presented like pieces of art.

Guests are met on arrival by wait staff and offered a glass of New Zealand methode champenoise and canapés. Guests can take the opportunity to stroll and admire this magnificent collection with background music provided by a popular jazz trio before taking their seats for a fine dining experience from the talented Austin's team who source only the finest and freshest ingredients to produce a range of dishes that are both visually vibrant and exquisite in taste.

Day 3 Queenstown



"You could use words like magnificent, superb, awesome, fantastic & heaps of others, & you still would be doing it an injustice"

Guests wake up to breakfast at the hotel and then transfer to Auckland Airport for the flight to Queenstown.

Queenstown has captured hearts since the first Maori came in search of pounamu (greenstone or jade) and to hunt the giant Moa bird and that same magic remains today. Now an established international four season resort it is unsurpassed for the diverse number of experiences on offer, its exceptional quality, and its friendly, accommodating people. Queenstown is pure escapism, where the limits stop and people take over. Adventurers, golfers, walkers, filmmakers, leisure lovers, anglers, artists, wine enthusiasts, even Hollywood stars and US Presidents – they are all drawn to, and fall in love with the resort and the intense alpine energy.,

On arrival in Queenstown, the luggage is sent on to the hotel and guests are transported to **Gibbston Valley Vineyard** for lunch – the southern-most vineyard in the world! This award winning winery is set in the beautiful golden hills of Queenstown. After lunch, a leisurely stroll (and perhaps a little shopping) through the quaint gold-mining town of **Arrowtown**, before guests are transported on a short orientation tour of the heart of Queenstown on the way to their hotel, the Millennium Queenstown.

Tonight **Queenstown and Arrowtown Dinearound** – the region boast many lovely restaurants and guests have a choice this evening of where they would enjoy dining. Group reservations are being held and guests can choose where they wish to dine. Roundtrip transfers are provided.

Day 4 Dart River Safari . a journey that touches the soul

"Even though the whole region is a beautiful corner of the world, the Dart River Valley holds a special place in my mind as a main feature..."



This morning come with us to the **Dart River Valley** - part of the South West New Zealand World Heritage Area, "Te Wahipounamu" (which means place of Greenstone) – the name was chosen in recognition of the great cultural significance of the area to Maori, especially as an ancient source of the prized Pounamu (greenstone). Te Wahipounamu is one of the best examples in the world of a dynamic mountainous landscape, created by the great buckling forces along the plates which make the Earth's crust and was granted its world heritage title by the World

Heritage Convention in 1991.

The adventure starts with a breathtaking drive along the shores of Lake Wakatipu to Glenorchy. Perhaps best known as the film location for 'The Lord of the Rings' guests will have a back-road adventure, light bush walk with experienced guide and a jetboat experience along one of New Zealand's most spectacular braided rivers. The group splits into walking and jetboating groups and an hour later swap activities. All this activity will have given guests an appetite and they have time to relax over a barbeque lunch. The stillness of this pristine environment is interrupted with the sound of incoming helicopters to whisk guests away on a scenic flight down Lake Wakatipu to Queenstown. (4WD vehicles available for guests preferring not to take helicopter). The helicopter lands at the Skyline Gondola overlooking Queenstown, Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables. Guests may enjoy a little more adventure and luge the hillside or just enjoy those views – afterwards take the Gondola down the hillside and spend the remainder of the afternoon in leisure.

Early evening guests board their deluxe coach and transfer to their dinner venue

Southern Nights at Gantley's Queenstown



Built in 1863 during the Gold Rush, the ambiance created by this beautiful historic stone restaurant is romantic and elegant, with exposed stone walls, soft lighting, and a huge open fire-place. The tables are set with starched linen napery, glowing candles and beautiful crystal stemware.

Guests arrive and walk down a path of tea-lights towards the restaurant. Landscaped gardens give guests an opportunity to enjoy pre or after dinner drinks or simply admire the majestic mountain scenery.

Gantley's takes pride in presenting a unique setting and unsurpassed quality, excellent menus and an extensive and eclectic selection of wines - for the past 8 years Gantley's has been honored by New York magazine "Wine Spectator" with an Award of Excellence "...for having one of the most outstanding restaurant wine lists in the world." making it New Zealand's most awarded wine list. Guests enjoy fine dining and selected New Zealand wines. A highlight of the evening will be a performance by a leading New Zealand Opera Singer.

Day 5 Queenstown

"Just come back from Queenstown and it was the most wonderful place we have ever been to..."

Today is at leisure for guests to enjoy Queenstown and the surrounding area. There are choices to suit everyone and our staff will be on hand to advise. Wine tours to sky diving, white water rafting to a guided nature walk examining the flora and fauna of New Zealand, a round of golf at one of Queenstown's renowned golf courses to a pampering spa experience the choice is endless.

Milford Sound ... moody, dramatic, stunning

In Maori legend, the fiords were created not by rivers of ice, but by Tu Te Raki Whanoa, a godly figure who came wielding a magical adze and uttering incantations. Milford Sound (Piopiotahi) is without doubt his finest sculpture. Whatever the fiord's mood, teeming with rain or with sun glistening on deep water, it will inspire you. Grand, brooding, serene and wild, Milford Sound draws visitors from all over the globe to cruise its length – and wonder. Luxuriant



rain forest clings to sheer rock walls washed with waterfalls. In the foreground stands Mitre Peak, a majestic presence dominating the skyline.

Spa at Hush or Millbrook - Relax and be pampered at a choice of Spa

Golf at Millbrook - designed by internationally renowned professional golfer and former British Open winner Sir Bob Charles, Millbrook Resort's 18-hole par 72 championship course is an exceptional golfing experience. Set against a remarkable alpine backdrop Millbrook resort fully utilizes the natural terrain of the region incorporating water and sand traps to ensure exciting and demanding golf. There are 4 different tee positions for the enjoyment of all levels of play.

Fly Fishing Adventure - your guide specialises in dry-fly and nymph fishing for Southern New Zealand's unique natural wild-spawned trout. Stalk the shy German brown and the spectacular (Steelhead strain) Rainbow Trout. These fish were originally stocked in our waters in the 1860's and have adapted remarkably. Your guide is an expert fly-fisherman with an excellent knowledge of the Southern Lakes area and Southland rivers. Only quality tackle and flies are supplied.



Safari of the Rings 4WD Full Day Adventure

.. when JRR Tolkien created Middle Earth little did he know the magical landscapes of his imagination actually existed, 12,000 miles away from his homeland. It took Peter Jackson 10 years and millions of dollars to bring Lord of the Rings to life on the big screen. Nomad Safaris have been taking people there every day for the past 12 years. Indeed, when David Gatward-Ferguson, owner of

Nomad Safaris, first gazed across Skippers Canyon all those years ago, he instantly felt he was looking at 'The Road to Mordor'. Many of the areas that a Nomad Safaris tour visits provide the spectacular backdrops to much of the action in Peter Jackson's 'The Fellowship of the Ring'; The Ford at Bruinen, The Misty Mountains, Isengard and Lothlorien, better known locally as Skippers Canyon, Macetown and Paradise, to name a few. The tour is based around several of the specific sites where filming took place. These are real places; there are no film sets; they are areas of outstanding natural beauty that need no enhancement. Here it is possible to experience the magical atmosphere captured in the film.

Remarkable Experience - Enjoy a journey aboard a 'grand lady' lovingly restored to her full glory – the 1937 Chevrolet bus arrived in New Zealand in 1942 and was in service for three decades. Travelling with the unique, convertible top down you can enjoy an open-air view of the magnificent surroundings and alluring beauty of the region. Guests have the opportunity to view fine art, carefully crafted and created by renowned artists of New Zealand in their personal galleries. Paintings of various styles and beautifully crafted wood sculptures are among the mediums.



Off road 4WD Motorbikes - Experience an exciting trip through some of Queenstown's best scenery. From the Shotover River up to the heights of Queenstown hill where the view over the Wakatipu basin is simply stunning. The terrain is exciting and varied giving riders of all abilities the opportunities to test and improve their skills. This trip never disappoints. All safety equipment and instruction is provided.

Kawarau River White Water Rafting - the mighty Kawarau River drains Lake Wakatipu and makes for some of the areas most exhilarating white water rafting. The big grade 3 rapids ensure all taking part get a good dose of adrenaline while the flatter sections allow you to enjoy the scenery and have the odd water fight with friends in other rafts.



Wine/Cultural Tour - Central Otago's fastest growing industry has provided the foundation for this delightful experience. Visiting the informative Taramea winemakers centre we commence our journey through some of central Otago's picturesque



settings. Stopping briefly at the original bungy site on Kawarau bridge we have a chance to see thrill seekers take the plunge. Moving on to another first for the New Zealand's wine industry, Wentworth estate is the blue print for an integrated wine making and residential lifestyle subdivision. Peregrine wines have been winning trophies since its first vintage in 1998. Moving on to Gibbston Valley Winery to visit New Zealand's largest wine cave which has been excavated into the side of the mountain and of course sampling some of there award winning wines.

Day 6 Skippers Canyon Adventure

Breakfast at leisure in the hotel. Guests are invited outside where they will see a fleet of 4 Wheel drive vehicles. They are taken through Skippers Canyon. This spectacular canyon was the centre of the Central Otago rush for gold – the rugged road itself is an engineering feat – and the drivers will delight with stories of its history. On arrival at Skippers Bridge, guest will find that that local 'goldminer' has boiled the billy for morning tea and time to relax and listen to colourful tales. Some guest may wish to bungy jump the 104 metres from the Skippers Bridge or ride the flying fox. The scenery is breathtaking. These hills are also home to new Zealand gold and guests may also like to try their luck in a little gold-panning activity. A light picnic lunch is served and then we reboard our 4WD vehicles and travel through the countryside to river level, time to try your hand at gold-panning. Guests have a swift return to the Queenstone lakefront in a fleet of Kawarau jetboats.

The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure for last shopping and sightseeing.

Under the Southern Cross @ Moonlight Country



Located just 15 minutes from Queenstown, Moonlight Country's facilities comprise Moonlight Stables and The Barn, a purpose built function and event venue.

Upon arrival enjoy a glass of New Zealand methode champenoise and pre-dinner canapés and enjoy the spectacular views. The Barn” has a New Zealand Rural Theme. Guests will be greeted by staff dressed in appropriately themed clothing. Guests will see outside horses grazing in the paddock adjacent to the venue, where guests can see them and walk to the fence to pet them if they feel so inclined.

Prior to be seated for dinner guests are invited to enjoy a traditional Sheep Dog Trial and watch the working dogs round up the sheep. Following the traditional Sheep Dog Trial the entertainment continues as guests are given the opportunity to participate in a human sheep dog trial and try their hand at rounding the sheep up into the pen.

After all the activity it is time to sit down and enjoy a casual buffet BBQ dinner. During and following dinner guests will be further entertained by a popular local band. And the stars don't shine much brighter than here, take a moment to look through the telescope and be fascinated by stories from one of New Zealand's top astronomers from the Auckland Stardome and Observatory.

Day 7 Depart New Zealand

Breakfast at leisure at the hotel before transferring to Queenstown Airport.

Haere Ra – Farewell

We are happy to forward a copy of the comprehensive itinerary and costings along with hotel recommendations, program enhancements and gifts ideas. This program is suitable for groups of up to 200 guests.